

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1           1.       (previously presented) An information stream monitoring system
- 2       comprising:
- 3           an information monitoring device adapted to monitor one or more
- 4       electronic email documents in an information stream associated with a first
- 5       electronic forum, and to compare information about the one or more electronic
- 6       email documents to two or more rules, wherein the comparison is between newer
- 7       of the one or more email documents and older of the one or more email
- 8       documents to determine when a new topic of conversation has begun;
- 9           a forum spawning device adapted to query a set consisting of users
- 10       participating in the first forum when at least two of the two or more rules are
- 11       satisfied, and to create a new electronic forum based on one or more replies from
- 12       the set of users; and
- 13           a subscriber determining device adapted to determine which of the queried
- 14       users indicate interest in the new electronic forum and to subscribe each interested
- 15       user to the new electronic forum, but not to subscribe users of the set who do not
- 16       indicate interest in the new electronic forum,
- 17       wherein the two or more rules comprise at least two of the following: how
- 18       long the electronic forum has been in use; how many email messages have been
- 19       exchanged on the electronic forum; whether there has been a suggestion to create
- 20       a new discussion forum; whether a certain number of email messages on a
- 21       particular topic have been received within a predetermined time period; whether a
- 22       rate of email messages exchanged on a particular topic is statistically greater than
- 23       normal; or whether a certain number of forum members exchanged email
- 24       messages on a particular topic within a predetermined time period,
- 25       further wherein the information monitoring device, the forum spawning
- 26       device, and the subscriber determining device are executed by a processor.

1           Claim 2 (canceled).

1           3.       (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the forum  
2 spawning device queries the set of users to determine a need for the new  
3 electronic forum.

1           Claim 4 (canceled).

1           5.       (currently amended) The system of claim 1, further ~~comprising~~  
2 comprising:  
3           a subscriber maintenance device adapted to associate the new electronic  
4 forum and the set of users indicating interest in the new electronic forum.

1           6.       (currently amended) The system of claim 1, further ~~comprising~~  
2 comprising:  
3           an electronic document storage device adapted to store the one or more  
4 electronic email documents.

1           Claim 7 (canceled).

1           8.       (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the  
2 information comparison is based on a rule-based model and a statistical-based  
3 model.

1           9.       (previously presented) An information stream monitoring method  
2 comprising:  
3           monitoring one or more email documents in an information stream  
4 associated with a first forum;  
5           comparing information about the one or more email documents to two or  
6 more rules, wherein the comparing is comparing newer of the one or more email  
7 documents to older of the one or more email documents to determine when a new  
8 topic of conversation has begun;

9            querying a set consisting of users participating in the first electronic forum  
10    when at least two of the two or more rules are satisfied;  
11            creating a new electronic forum automatically based on one or more  
12    replies from the set of users, and  
13            subscribing each queried user of the set indicating interest in the new  
14    electronic forum to the new electronic forum, but not subscribing to the new  
15    electronic forum users of the set who do not indicate interest,  
16            wherein the two or more rules comprise at least two of the following: how  
17    long the electronic forum has been in use; how many email messages have been  
18    exchanged on the electronic forum; whether there has been a suggestion to create  
19    a new discussion forum; whether a certain number of email messages on a  
20    particular topic have been received within a predetermined time period; whether a  
21    rate of email messages exchanged on a particular topic is statistically greater than  
22    normal; or whether a certain number of forum members exchanged email  
23    messages on a particular topic within a predetermined time period.

1            Claim 10 (canceled).

1            11.    (previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein querying  
2    the set of users determines a need for the new electronic forum.

1            Claim 12 (canceled).

1            13.    (currently amended) The method of claim 9, further ~~comprising~~  
2    comprising:  
3            associating the new electronic forum and the set of subscribers.

1            14.    (currently amended) The method of claim 9, further ~~comprising~~  
2    comprising:  
3            storing the one or more email documents.

1            Claim 15 (canceled).

1           16.     (previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the  
2 information comparison is based on a rule-based model and a statistical-based  
3 model.

1           17.     (previously presented) A non-transitory computer-readable storage  
2 media comprising information that, when executed by a computer, cause the  
3 computer to perform a method comprising:  
4           monitoring one or more email documents in an information stream  
5 associated with a first electronic forum;  
6           comparing information about the one or more email documents to two or  
7 more rules, wherein the comparison is between newer of the one or more email  
8 documents and older of the one or more email documents to determine when a  
9 new topic of conversation has begun;  
10          querying a set consisting of users participating in the first electronic forum  
11 when at least two of the two or more rules are satisfied;  
12          creating a new electronic forum based on one or more replies from the set  
13 of users; and  
14          subscribing each queried user of the set indicating interest in the new  
15 electronic forum to the new electronic forum, but not subscribing to the new  
16 electronic forum users of the set who do not indicate interest,  
17          wherein the two or more rules comprise at least two of the following: how  
18 long the electronic forum has been in use; how many email messages have been  
19 exchanged on the electronic forum; whether there has been a suggestion to create  
20 a new discussion forum; whether a certain number of email messages on a  
21 particular topic have been received within a predetermined time period; whether a  
22 rate of email messages exchanged on a particular topic is statistically greater than  
23 normal; or whether a certain number of forum members exchanged email  
24 messages on a particular topic within a predetermined time period.

1           Claim 18 (canceled).

1           19.     (previously presented) The non-transitory computer-readable  
2     storage media of claim 17, wherein querying the set of users determines a need  
3     for the new electronic forum.

1           Claim 20 (canceled).

1           21.     (currently amended) The non-transitory computer-readable  
2     ~~information~~ storage media of claim 17, further ~~comprising~~ comprising:  
3             associating the new electronic forum and at least one of the set of users.

1           22.     (currently amended) The non-transitory computer-readable  
2     ~~information~~ storage media of claim 17, further ~~comprising~~ comprising:  
3             storing the one or more email documents.

1           Claim 23 (canceled).

1           24.     (currently amended) The non-transitory computer-readable  
2     ~~information~~ storage media of claim 17, wherein the information comparison is  
3     based on a rule-based model and a statistical-based model.

1           25.     (currently amended) The non-transitory computer-readable  
2     ~~information~~ storage media of claim 17, wherein the information comparison  
3     compares at least one of: subject information; email document posting  
4     information; and email document tracking information.

1           Claims 26-30 (canceled).

1           31.     (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the  
2     information stream comprises one or more email messages flowing between two  
3     or more of the set of users.

1           32.     (previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the  
2     information stream comprises one or more email messages flowing between two  
3     or more of the set of users.

1           33.     (currently amended) The non-transitory computer-readable  
2     ~~information~~ storage media of claim 17, wherein the information stream comprises  
3     one or more email messages flowing between two or more of the set of users.

1           Claims 34-39 (canceled).

1           40.     (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the  
2     information monitoring device detects whether the new topic of conversation is  
3     likely to generate additional email messages.

1           41.     (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the  
2     subscribers to the new electronic forum receive email messages from both the first  
3     electronic forum and the new electronic forum.

1           Claim 42 (canceled).

1           43.     (currently amended) The method of claim 9, further ~~comprising~~  
2     comprising:  
3             detecting whether the new topic of conversation is likely to generate  
4     additional email messages.

1           44.     (previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the  
2     subscribers to the new electronic forum receive email messages from both the first  
3     electronic forum and the new electronic forum.

1           Claim 45 (canceled).

1           46.     (currently amended) The non-transitory computer-readable storage  
2     media of claim 17, further ~~comprising~~ comprising:

3           detecting whether the new topic of conversation is likely to generate  
4   additional email messages.

1           47.   (previously presented) The non-transitory computer-readable  
2   storage media of claim 17, wherein the subscribers to the new electronic forum  
3   receive email messages from both the first electronic forum and the new electronic  
4   forum.

1           Claims 48-50 (canceled).